

PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE HOLD POST OF HONOR IN JEWELRY REALM

Share With Platinum the Distinction of Being Most Eagerly Sought by Discriminating Buyers

GEMS IN LARGE DEMAND

Jewels and Christmas Platinum and pearls are the favorites in jewelry. The great diamond mines in South Africa are closed since the war.

Platinum and pearls are the most ultra in high class Christmas jewelry this year—platinum for the mountings of precious stones of all kinds and pearls as the most expensive ornament.

According to statistics issued by the jewelry examiner at the appraisers' store in New York, the importations for the month of November, 1915, of precious stones were valued at \$5,056,752, as compared with \$1,035,231 for November, 1914, and \$32,233 for November 1913.

WRIST WATCHES THE VOGUE. "Wrist watches are in great demand, and for men they are no longer looked upon as an effeminate fad. People have had their jokes about them, but the joke is on the joker now. They are becoming a necessity. Look how convenient they are. Take a day like today, a man wants to consult his watch. He has first to unbutton his overcoat, then his inside coat and reach into his vest pocket and then reverse the performance before he is through.

GREAT DEMAND FOR FINE PEARLS. "As for pearls, the supply of genuine pearls is small and the demand very great. There is no limit to what a pearl necklace may cost; they have been valued as high as half a million dollars for one celebrated string. It takes years to collect even a small string of graduated pearls, perfectly matched in color. And perhaps no gem is more easily imitated, even an expert can almost be deceived. Reconstructed pearls, of the finest imitations are called, are now made exactly similar in color and weight to real pearls and you can place one on the floor and stand on it without doing any damage. They are not cheap. Strings of them are made to sell as high as \$500.

PLATINUM'S HIGH COST. "The demand for platinum jewelry has raised the price of that precious metal till it is now double the price of gold. Jewelers are manufacturing a white gold which looks like platinum and is not quite as expensive. It was the sweethearts of the Canadian soldier boys who went to fight in Europe who made the men's wrist watches so popular. Nearly every one of them wore one as a parting token, and they proved their convenience so well in the trenches that they became almost universal in England. They will soon be as popular in America."

WILMINGTON LAWYER ILL. George Lodge Stricken on Street. Condition Is Serious. WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 8.—George Lodge, a widely known lawyer in this city, fell on the street at noon near his office at 9th and Market streets, just after leaving the courthouse. He was removed to the Delaware Hospital, where his condition is serious. It is supposed he suffered an attack of vertigo, but it is also feared that he has a fracture of the skull. Mr. Lodge is about 55 years old and unmarried. He lives at Claymont.

Sauerkraut Price Standardized. BERLIN, Dec. 8.—The Government today published the maximum wholesale prices for sauerkraut. It fixed at 1200 Kronas for 50 kilograms (about 1 cent a pound).

City Treasury Statement. The weekly statement of the City Treasurer shows that \$101,352 was paid in during the week ending at 11:30 a. m. The payments amounted to \$71,236. The balance on hand is now \$2,840,252, not including the sinking fund account.

"PANTIES" FOR WOMEN WHO SKATE



The approved 1916 model skating costume includes "panties." The innovation has met with the unanimous approval of the women, who state that they are much warmer in the new costume than in the old-fashioned bloomers.

SKATING DAYS HERE AND MILADY IS IN NEW RIG TO MEET THEM

Fur-Tipped "Panties" Peep From Beneath the Skirt, and They Serve a Doubly Useful Purpose

It is time to go skating. It has been time to go skating for several days. By and by, if the North Pole winds keep on trying long enough, there will be skating. Then the dull mirrors of the frozen lakes and streams around the city will be covered with gliding, flying figures, laughter, shrieks, rosy cheeks and noses, parabolas, dull thumps and fashion models of the new skating costumes.

A DELICIOUS CHOCOLATE LAYER CAKE A LA CREOLE

CHOCOLATE cake is, as a rule, everybody's favorite, and the number of its followers will testify to its popularity. Like other favored forms of the culinary art, it has many varied recipes, all of which are probably good. The following method, copyrighted by the New Orleans Picayune, is a very good one and may suggest a note of change to the busy housewife.

Christmas Hints

The number of sets of white fox fur being sought in the stores for Christmas presents assures one of their popularity all through the winter months. They are such charming, fluffy furs, anyhow, and worn with a navy or dark suit, the effect is particularly smart. Of course, Milady wears a pair of white broadcloth spats to complete the costume. One large department store has gotten below the \$2 mark on these spats, selling a very plain, good-looking model at \$1.50. These are washable, of course. All kinds of black and white, black and tan, tan and white and other combinations may be bought from \$1.50 up.

"DEAR SANTA CLAUS, NORTH POLE," HERE'S THE CHRISTMAS MAIL

Letters From Children and From Grown-ups, Too, Speak Confidently of Visits of the Reindeer

THEY TELL OF POVERTY

Including today there are only 14 shopping days before Christmas.

There is an erroneous impression that Saint Nicholas lives at 9th and Chestnut streets. There is another that he lives at the North Pole, but that is probably more nearly the truth, although there is a rumor that he moved from that address shortly after Doctor Cook visited the Pole—or was it Peary? Somebody had to get busy and cheapen the northernmost fairland of the world, but whoever it was he didn't cheapen Santa Claus any.

There is something eerie and creepy in the feelings in taking up a letter that came to the postoffice with nothing on the envelope for an address but these two words, "North Pole." It makes one feel cold. And it fills one with an awful sense of responsibility. For the small writer believed that was a legitimate address, that should properly bring the letter to Santa Claus. And the terrible thing about it is, the small writer was right; that was a perfectly legitimate address.

But when one has opened the letter, resolved to represent Santa Claus on earth, and seen the long list of things required, there is a sinking of the heart and a painful consciousness that the coins in one's pocket are frankly three buffalo nickels and a dime which somebody has chewed on and may not be good for anything better than a telephone call.

If children would only learn to be content with kind words and kind thoughts! And another thing: if a child can imagine a saint living at the North Pole with a bag full of toys, why does he have to have real expensive toys—why can't he imagine he's got them, along with the saint?

"Dear Santa Claus. I am writing to you to tell you what we all would like to have for Christmas. There are five girls of us and I am the oldest, and I am only 9 years. Then we have Maud, 6; Dolly, 5; Helen, 3; and Fannie, 1 1/2 years old. We all would like a doll and a picture book and if you could send a coach or anything else we would be delighted.

"I don't want to ask too much for I know you have a terrible lot of children to look after. Hoping you will have a joyous Christmas, I am, One of your children, ....."

"I don't want to ask too much." And she wants Santa Claus to have a joyous Christmas. If Santa Claus has a joyous Christmas, it must be that he has a very tactful secretary who hides from his chief's eyes those of his letters which he cannot answer."

Here is a letter which was addressed simply "North Pole," and which was left unopened and without any address, in amazing faith in the spirituality of things:

"Dear Santa Claus, I want a football and a fire engine and a set of electric trains (plural, you notice, "trains"), a milk wagon and a gun and a stable with little horses."

A little girl writes "to see if you will help my little brothers and sisters with some shoes and clothes. My father is not working at present. We will be very thankful to you if you answer this letter."

Then follow the names of the brothers and sisters and their ages—12, 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2 years. The writer's name was opposite the 10—she wasn't the oldest.

Were the other five crowded around her as she painstakingly scrawled at the end, "With our true love to Santa Claus?" Did they watch with open mouths her studious bent brow and cramped fingers, and hear impatient sighs as she stopped to wet the pencil point on her tongue?

For the dim penciled words went suddenly quite black, with a suddenness suggestive of that old way of coaxing a blunt point when one hasn't got a penknife.

One boy sent a list with "I want a" in each line and after the "a" was a picture of the object wanted, a steam engine, an airplane, etc., things he couldn't spell but could draw. A little girl sent a list of 14 desirable presents.

Margaret and Dorothy are behaving themselves very well, we learn, and would like etc., etc., among other things gloves for Sunday, which they really deserve, for the address of these younger sisters is not given by their elder.

"I would like a hair ribbon," wrote a child in Shamokin, who thinks Santa Claus lives primarily in Philadelphia. Is it possible to get a hair ribbon for three nickels and a badly chewed dime? If so, all right, Marcella.

"Now, Santa Claus, you don't need to bring us each one doll, if you don't have enough; because there is so much war. But if you have plenty, then two 28 inches long."

Many of the letters for Santa Claus that have come to the Postoffice give no last names or addresses, proving beyond a doubt the deep faith still abiding in thousands of hearts. A young person who writes from Philadelphia, Pa., middle of North America, "wants 'summe nice thing for Christmas,' and specifies, 'but draw the line modestly (though desiring 'new clothes too well')—would like more 'but things are too much money.' People have evidently been allowing a great many children to overhear that things cost money. Too many of these children are describing themselves frankly as 'poor children.' 'We are poor children' occurs again and again, quite artlessly; simply as the statement of a fact. There are happy children in the world, these children seem to know; also there are poor children.

A very solemn epistle comes to "Chris Kingle." Just this: "Please do not forget me; and my brother Timothy and Thomas, 5 and 3 years; and myself, 6."

Santa Claus got a picture postcard from "Your friend, J. H.," no address, from a lad who must be at least 12 or 14, judging from the handwriting. He is sophisticated enough to want to get into the New Year's parade, and asks the Saint for a costume, but he sent the letter to the North Pole all the same. In fact, most of them did, as it is sure to be forwarded from there.

One boy knocked Santa Claus pretty hard. This must have hurt: "My brother wrote a letter for you 2 Christmas ago and you did not answer it so he said that if you ain't got no money there is no yonse writing; but I think we wanted too much. We had a very poor Christmas last year and the paper said all children that wrote were not forgotten, but we were, as my father was out of work and we could not send any money to pay for what we wanted. Dear Santa, if you can will you send me a set of trains and a pair of gloves. I have a little sister who wants a doll and 2 older brothers."

There was one long letter that at first took the breath away, for it began: "Dear Santa Claus, my husband was out of work, a long time—." Then one naturally tossed it down in disgust, as a sentimental appeal to charity. But reading it through again, the simplicity of the language, the artless tale of misfortune—could it be that this was a real letter to Santa Claus?

There was a recurrence of the word "you" for "you" that recalled a younger age of the world when grown-up people as well as children were obedient to authority. "I do not know what to thank you for," the writer wrote, "but I have fully received—if you can bring them some toys, as they enjoy Christmas when they see some toys around." If it isn't real, it is such consummate art as to inspire profound envy of that artist's skill.

It looked a good deal more real than the letter that came from a little girl who addressed Santa at 235 Snow Hill, North Pole. That looked like meddling, skeptical grown-ups.

"MOVIE" STARS SHINE AT BALL

Hundreds See Them Dance and Enjoy Themselves

"Movie" folk came out in the flesh last night at the Motion Picture Exhibitors' ball, in Turnersheim Hall, and had quite as good a time as the hundreds who came to see them. All the big companies allowed their stars to come over from New York, and the Philadelphia Lubin people were there in force. It was grand, what with dance entertainment, diversion at the tables, bashful exhibition by the actors and actresses, and all.

Adjournment was taken at 3 a. m., and from Turnersheim Hall the party moved to the Bingham, where the fun was resumed, somewhat reduced in numbers, but considerably augmented in speed. A detailed story of the ball will be printed in the Amusement Section of the EVENING LEDGER on Saturday.

Advertising Firm Changes Name In order to give his undivided attention to manufacturing interests, John B. Menz has retired from active connection with the Matos-Menz Advertising Company, Inc. William W. Matos, president and treasurer of the company, has purchased his entire interest and the company has changed its trade name to that of the Matos Advertising Company, Inc., under which title the prosperous business of the company is being conducted.

First Curtis Concert Tonight The Curtis Orchestra will give its first concert of the season of 1915-1916 tonight at 8:15 o'clock in the auditorium of the Curtis Publishing Company's building.

U. OF P. PROFESSOR CALLS MR. WILSON'S DICTION PURE ENGLISH

Dr. Felix E. Shelling Declares the President's Recent Address to Congress an Intellectual Treat

CLEARLY EXPRESSED

The quality of President Wilson's English is now proverbial, and now takes as a matter of course by the great mass of thinking people in the United States, who look eagerly for an intellectual treat with each of his public utterances, regardless of their theme, or whether there is a full accord with and belief in their logic, according to Dr. Felix E. Shelling, professor of English literature at the University of Pennsylvania, and an authority upon the English language. Speaking today of the scholarly quality of the President's English, as exemplified in his message to Congress, Doctor Shelling said:

"When President Wilson delivered his final personal address to Congress on March 5, 1913, I was deeply impressed with the fact that his diction perfectly clothed his thought. In each and every one of his public utterances this scholarly quality has been so evident as to make the reading of anything composed by the President a genuine intellectual treat, whether or not one agrees with the policies he advocates.

"I remember that for a time it was the practice to deride the President's language from the perspective of its quality. This sort of criticism was, fortunately, not general, but emanated from the few to whom can be applied the old saying as to fools condemning that which they do not understand. Happily, we now hear no more of it.

"The artist in language uses color in speech with the same sympathy as the sculptor in sharing with the pantomimist the wondrous articulation of the human framework."



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